ORLEANS COUNTY 2021

Visitoris Guide











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Avoid 'suburban same-ness' and explore a unique small town

by Tom Rivers, Editor of OrleansHub.com

You won't find another place quite like Orleans County. In an era of chain stores and cookie-cutter houses proliferating on the landscape, Orleans County still has an identity that is distinctly ours.



Bent's Opera House is pictured in the background of this photo, looking through the apple-themed bike rack on Main Street in Medina.

You can see the wealth from those booming Erie Canal days. It's hard for any small town to top the downtown districts in Albion and Medina, Albion's Courthouse Square, the cavernous churches (some with Tiffany stained-glass windows) and the stately residences.

These places have struggled in Orleans County, I'm not going to lie. Corporate downsizings take a toll on a place. We feel the effects of a much-smaller Kodak.

After a time of flux, the small towns in Orleans County are looking ahead and aren't waiting for Superman. New restaurants have opened in the downtowns in Albion, Holley and Medina with a big project in the works in Lyndonville. Local people are leading these efforts, including a stunning transformation of the Bent's Opera House in Medina into a restaurant, boutique hotel and events space.

The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well. We are adding wineries, shops and other businesses. There is a "can-do" feeling in the community. Even manufacturing is growing in the county with the recent opening of Pride Pak and expansion by Takeform in Medina.

Albion recently built a new public library with local residents donating more than \$1 million to the effort. Holley is completing a \$17 million renovation of its former high school into 41 apartments and the village offices. There are numerous other efforts from the locals, bringing new vitality into the community.

I would be remiss in a welcome message to not mention we are one of the great fishing spots in the country for trout and salmon. You can catch these fish from a boat out on Lake Ontario in the summer or you can go after them in waders, fishing in the streams during the fall and winter.

I like the "old stuff" in the county, including the historic cemeteries. The stone arch leading into Mount Albion is amazing. That cemetery has a Civil War Memorial where you can climb a spiral staircase and look out for miles.

I like the tugboats on the Erie Canal and the classic car shows on Friday nights in Medina. And the Hulberton hamlet hosts the Western New York Bocce Tournament every year, the Sunday before Labor Day. The eggplant parmesan and pasta fagioli sell out fast.

Orleans embraces quirkiness. The grease pole climbing competition is one of the most popular events at the annual county fair. One of our big attraction is the Shoe Tree in Lyndonville, where thousands of sneakers have been tossed into four ash trees.

A Steampunk Festival also draws a huge crowd of costumed characters in late August where star performers swallow fire and spew flames.

Yes, we are a unique place.



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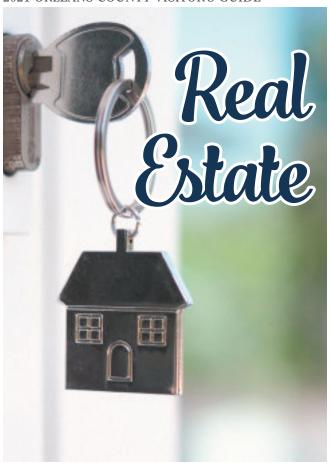
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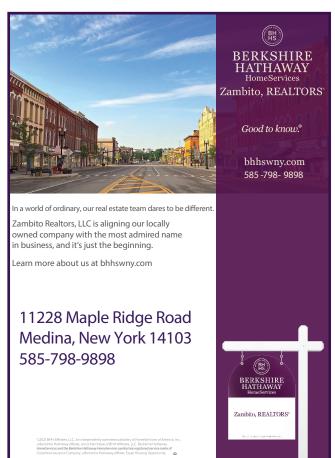
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How's Fishing?

by Capt. Bob Stevens, Sunrise II Sportfishing

This is the question that a professional charter captain gets asked every day, from my wife to the guy at the gas dock, to friends and anyone else that I talk with, doesn't even have to be fishing season and I still get asked how was the fishing? One thing that is almost as good as fishing, is talking about fishing.

It's really a loaded question...one that I always have the same answer to...fishing is great!

Now some days the weather isn't all that good, and other days the fish might not cooperate like I want them to, but as far as getting to fish every day, that is great.

One thing I have learned over the past 36 years is that everyone that fishes has different expectations, whether they charter a boat, have their own, go with a buddy, or just sit on the bank. Some people, like my father for example, must have fish biting every minute, in fact one of the things we always say about him is that he has plenty of patience because he hasn't used any up yet!. Then there are those that could care less if they ever caught a fish, had a customer once say "I don't want to be interrupted with fish today" what an easy day on the water. When a guy tows his boat up from Ohio or Pennsylvania or down from Maine, they want to catch fish!

Some groups come in from out of town with more people than one boat can handle so we run multiple boat trips. On one occasion I remember we stayed in to catch salmon, the second boat went out to fish steelhead, back at the dock my guys said "look at all those fish" the other captains guys said "look at the size of those fish" that was the day I realized that catching a lot of big fish is the ultimate goal.

So how do the charters do it, day in and day out, producing enough fish to keep everyone happy?

Two words, consistency and communication. Let's start with the first, we try to stay consistent by fishing the temperature that best suits the fish you are fishing for. Like kings for example, they prefer to feed in water that is anywhere between 47 and 52 degrees, however, that is not always the rule, like in the spring (April, May) we catch feeding salmon in water that varies from 39 to 44 degrees, that's where the smelt like to linger. Remember this too, historically my biggest kings have come way out of temp, up to 60 degrees.

Steelhead like temperatures between 55 and 65 degrees, but will actively feed on surface bait in the summer months, you probably won't see too many on your fish finder in that situation, fun to catch though. Coho salmon like things just a bit colder, finding them in 40 to 48 degrees is common in the spring, summer and fall they are a bit more scarce, but usually when you get one, you will get two or three in the same area. Lake trout are more apt to hang out in water that is cold as well, we try to fish 45- to 50-degree water for them. Brown trout are more temperature tolerant, depending on the season, they can be found in water from 39 in the spring up to 65 in the fall time.

If you don't have a down probe to tell you specific temps, you can rely on your fish finder, if you are seeing fish at a certain depth, fish em.

The second is communication, with the marine radio, cell phones, and today's social media, we try to stay in touch with what is happening, not only where we are fishing at the moment, but other areas near where we are fishing, as well as lake wide. One of the reasons I chose Oak Orchard to make my living, is the fact that we have a very friendly fleet of fishermen here, from chatting at the docks, to the local campgrounds, to the local watering holes, people are always ready to answer the question...how's fishing?!











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Experience the 2 National Historic Landmarks in Orleans County

Erie Canal and Cobblestone Museum both have lofty distinction

by Tom Rivers, Editor of OrleansHub.com

Orleans County is home to two National Historic Landmarks – the Erie Canal and the Cobblestone Museum.



Several tugboats, nearly a century old, continue to operate on the Erie Canal, including this one based in Albion.

The U.S. Department of the Interior deemed the Cobblestone Museum a NHL in 1993, and the Barge Canal made the list in 2017. The Erie Canal was widened and expanded from 1905 to 1918, and was then called the Barge Canal.

Orleans County boasts many features of those upgrades from a century ago, including seven of the 16 lift bridges on the canal, which originally opened in 1825. There are also many impressive guard gates, waste weirs, tugboats and barges.

Construction started in 1817 to build the 363-mile waterway and was completed eight years later. The canal is in the midst of a bicentennial celebration and the local communities and state have been celebrating the Erie's significance in shaping the canal towns. The historic downtown business districts and stately homes in Albion, Medina and Holley bear testimony to the prosperity reaped from the canal.

OUR COUNTY'S RICH HISTORY INCLUDES NATIONAL LANDMARKS & BEAUTIFUL ARCHITECTURE.

These days, you will still see boats on the canal, with an increasing number of cyclists, joggers and walkers on the towpath. There are also plenty of herons, hawks, turtles, deer and other wildlife along the way.

The three canal villages in Orleans County – Albion, Holley and Medina – all have special events by the canal, including concerts and festivals, as well as bathrooms and amenities for visitors.

A few miles north of Albion you'll find the Cobblestone Museum near the intersection of routes 98 and 104. You'll see a collection of buildings from the 1800s, including a church from 1834, a parsonage decorated in Victorian splendor from 1836 and a one-room schoolhouse from 1849.

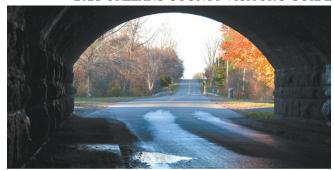
The museum is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2020. The organization started in 1960 to preserve the church building. Now there are more than a dozen buildings as part of the museum complex, which welcomed 4,000 visitors last year.

The museum gives a glimpse into life in a bygone era, showcasing trades of blacksmithing, farming, printing, woodworking and leatherworking. The organization has expanded its programming in recent years to offer concerts, educational events, art classes, ghost walks, Civil War re-enactors and tours of cobblestone sites in the region.



The Cobblestone Church, built in 1834, continues to host weddings and other events throughout the year. It is the oldest cobblestone church in North America.





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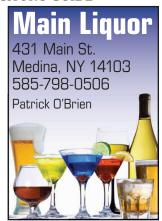
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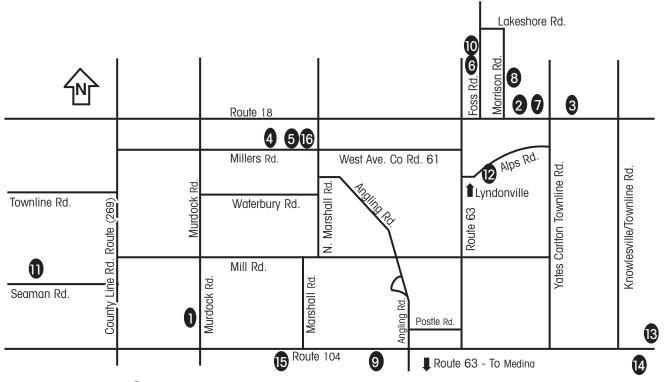


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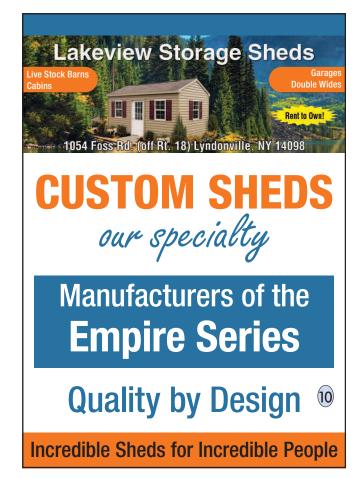
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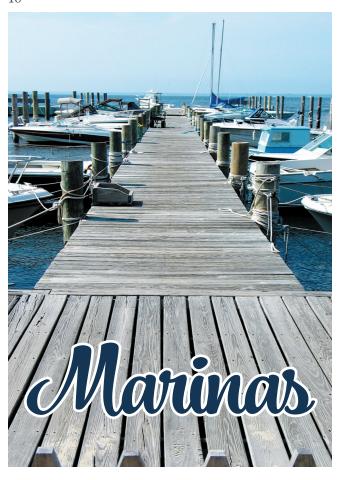
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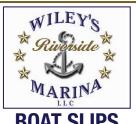
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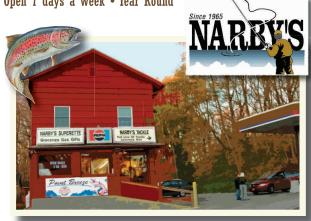
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Shoe Tree remains an **Orleans sensation**

by Tom Rivers, Editor of OrleansHub.com

row of four ash trees at the corner of Foss and Lakeshore roads is full of hundreds of shoes in the Town Locals Yates. have been keeping the trees stocked for vears. The footwear is nailed to the bark



on the trunks of the trees. Sneakers hang from branches, some on the ends of limbs high in the air. (The shoe donors have great arms to reach these spots.)

The Shoe Tree is one of the county's most talked about attractions. It is featured on Web sites and was included in a 2008 book called "New York Curiosities."

For nearly four decades folks have been flinging loafers, cleats, high heels, slippers, running shoes and boots into the trees. There were five of the trees, but one toppled over in a wind storm in 2009.

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CHINOOK SALMON



Also known as King Salmon, they are some of the most sought-after trophies of Lake Ontario and its tributaries. They can be found from April through September on Lake Ontario and in October and November in the tributaries

of the lake in Orleans County. Although their preferred temperature range is from 42 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit, they will go outside their range when feeding or spawning. Chinook Salmon are the largest of the Salmon family, reaching weights in the upper 40-pound range.

COHO SALMON



Although smaller than the Chinook Salmon, the Coho Salmon is considered by many to give a more active fight than its big brother. They normally follow the Chinook Salmon up the tributaries for their spawning run in the fall of

the year. Their preferred temperature range is from 42 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit. The World record for Coho Salmon comes from Lake Ontario.

ATLANTIC SALMON



Once a native fish to Lake Ontario, this species disappeared from the lake in the very early-1900s. A restoration program is in progress for this great fighting fish and for that reason, the minimum size is 25 inches. Their

preferred temperature range is from 45 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Although the markings closely resemble a Brown Trout, the memory lasting fight will leave little doubt in your mind that you have done battle with an exceptional fish.

LAKE TROUT



Also a fish that was once very abundant in Lake Ontario and disappeared, they are now being brought back under a federal stocking program. Because of this, all Lake Trout between the lengths of 25 to 30 inches have to be released

as they are considered the best breeding sizes. Their 39 to 52 degree Fahrenheit preferred temperature range makes them a bottom fish in Lake Ontario.

BROWN TROUT



One of the most sought-after species of trout, Brown Trout in Lake Ontario sometimes exceed 30 pounds. Normally considered an April-May fish on Lake Ontario, they are available all summer long in 100 feet of water or

less. They prefer a gravel bottom in water 55 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. In the Fall of the year, when the Brown Trout go up the tributaries for their spawning run, fishermen from all over the world converge on Orleans County to target these magnificent fish.

STEELHEAD/RAINBOW TROUT



The acrobatics of these fish are known far and wide and are spectacular compared to the rest of the trout family. It is often said that they are out of the water more than in during a typical fight and leaves you spellbound by

their ability. Steelhead/Rainbow Trout are available all year round in Lake Ontario and its tributaries. They are considered an upper level fish in the water column due to their preferred temperature of 55 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. A diet which includes flying insects landing on the water make them a great fish for fly fishermen to target during the winter months.

WALLEYE



In the fishery, the Walleye is considered the new-comer to Lake Ontario. With a preferred temperature range of 55 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit, it is considered a warm water fish. Walleye can be found along the shoreline of Lake Ontario and

in its tributaries, but also in many of the smaller lakes in Orleans County.

LARGE AND SMALLMOUTH BASS



The clearing waters of Lake Ontario and its tributaries, along with the waters of many spring-fed lakes and ponds within Orleans

County are the home of some great Bass fishing. The 65 to 75 degree Fahrenheit waters that they prefer make them a

near shore fishery where weed cover is available. Please remember that opening day of Bass Season is the third Saturday of June each year.

YELLOW PERCH



Anyone who has grown up on the Southern shore of Lake Ontario has most likely done battle with Yellow Perch at some point. It is a species of fish that is considered by many to be the best tasting fresh water fish. Because

they are a schooling fish and have a preferred water temperature of 55 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit, it is fairly easy to get your limit of 50 perch once you locate them.

BLUEGILL/PUMPKINSEED CRAPPIE



This group of fish will help many a young person pass a sunny summer day enjoying the outdoors. With a preferred temperature of between 65 and 75 degrees, they are a near shore fish on all the waters within Orleans County. They can be mainly found around fallen trees, docks and piers

and can be caught with a wide variety of natural and artificial baits.

It's a Date

May

06.11

06.12

06.19

05.01 Canal Village Winter Farmers' Market • 9 am - 1 pm Medina Farmers' Market, Medina 05.07-16 LOC Spring Trout & Salmon Derby • 12 pm 05.08 Canal Village Winter Farmers' Market • 9 am - 1 pm Medina Farmers' Market, Medina 05.08-09 Wine Trail Blossoms • 10 am - 5 pm 05.15 Canal Village Winter Farmers' Market • 9 am - 1 pm Medina Farmers' Market, Medina 05.15 Canal Village Winter Farmers' Market • 9 am - 1 pm Medina Farmers' Market, Medina 05.29 Bald Eagle Tournament Series - Event #1 • All Day Bald Eagle Marina, Kendall 05.29 Canal Village Winter Farmers' Market • 9 am - 1 pm Medina Farmers' Market, Medinar. June 06.04-06 Medina Railroad Thomas the Tank Engine • 9:15 am - 5:30 pm

Medina Railroad Museum, Medina

Bald Eagle Marina, Kendall

06.26-07.25 LOC Summer Trout & Salmon Derby • All Day

Oak Orchard Open Tournament • All Day

King of the Oaks Series - Condor Memorial • 12 pm

Bald Eagle Tournament Series - Event #2 • All Day

July 07.10

07.17

King of the Oak Series - Agitator Jack/Clarence Crisp Memorial • 12 pm

Bald Eagle Tournament Series - Event #3 • All Day Bald Eagle Marina, Kendall

Orleans County 4-H July 27 - 31, 2021

10 am - 10 pm 4-H Fairgrounds • Knowlesville



August

08.07 Bald Eagle Tournament Series - Event #4 • All Day Bald Eagle Marina, Kendall

08.07 Albion Summer Festival: Rock the Park 7 • 11 am - 11 pm

Bullard Park, Albion

08.07-22 Rotary Fishing Derby • All Day

08.14 King of the Oak Series - Keith Poland/Joe Toomey Memorial •

08.20-09.06 LOC Fall Trout & Salmon Derby • All Day

08.21 Bald Eagle Tournament Series - Event #5 • All Day

Bald Eagle Marina, Kendall

08.21-29 Fish Odyssey of Erie-Niagara-Orleans • All Day

September

09.05 King of the Oak Series - Johnny V Memorial • 12 pm



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Returning visitors to Orleans County should take a look at new memorials and tributes for veterans from the community

by Tom Rivers, Editor of OrleansHub.com

Several projects, including one more than a decade in the making, culminated in 2019 to honor veterans from Orleans County.

• Medina dedicated a new bronze statue outside the former Medina Armory, which is now the Orleans County YMCA. The site for about 75 years was used to train soldiers. A local group led by Bill Menz raised about \$65,000 for the statue, which was dedicated on Sept. 7, following a 13-year effort.

Menz trained at the building in 1953, when he joined Company C of the 174th Armored Infantry. When the Armory closed, Menz was on the committee that helped it find a new use as a YMCA. Menz, who died at age 86 on July 16, 2018, wanted the community to know the building's historical role in preparing soldiers to fight on behalf of the country.



• A cannon from World War I that was corroded with flaking paint and rotted parts was refurbished and rededicated in Medina on May 27, 2019. Since 1935, the B.L. 60 Pounder British field gun has been the centerpiece of State Street Park and also the annual Memorial Day observance in Medina.

The project was funded with a \$40,000 donation from George Bidleman, owner of the Orleans Ford dealership in Medina.



- Medina wanted to celebrate the service of veterans from the community and displayed 38 portraits of veterans in 2019. The Hometown Heroes' banners were so popular that 63 more will be added in 2020. Albion also is working to add banners of veterans.
- Kendall Boy Scouts worked a year to create a war memorial that was dedicated on Sept. 29, 2019 at the Kendall Community Park. Four scouts Jayden Pieniaszek, Noah Rath, Brian Shaw and Ryan Barrett each work on a phase of the project as part of their Eagle Scout requirement.

The 39-foot-long brick wall features granite plaques highlighting the American Revolution, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War and the War on Terror. Alternating the granite plaques are concrete medallions representing the five branches of the military.

Three flag poles stand tall behind the brick wall. Black granite engraved bricks border the memorial sidewalk in honor of veterans. The centerpiece of the memorial is a black granite stone that previously stood in front of the Kendall Town Hall and was dedicated to Kendall.





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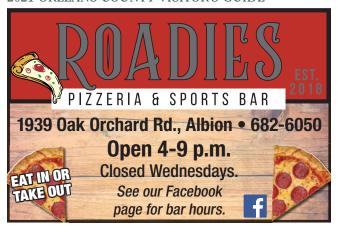
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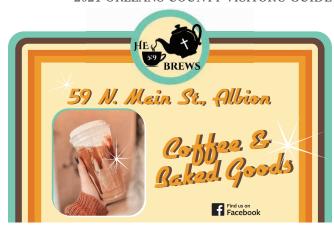
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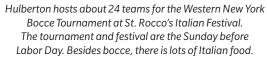
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Art taking bigger stage in local communities

Article by Tom Rivers, Editor of OrleansHub.com



Art is getting a bigger stage and priority in Orleans County. The former Medina High School attracted 4,000 people for a weekend last September for an art show. Artists were given free rein to transform classroom, closets, bathrooms and other spaces in the cavernous building.

Kari Achatz made "Betwixt" with patterned passageways and shadows in one of the classrooms. She wanted participants "to be seen and unseen at the same moment." The PLAY/GROUND art show debuted in 2018, and is expected to be back in 2020.

The immersive art experience included works by 34 artists, who encouraged people to interact with the pieces.

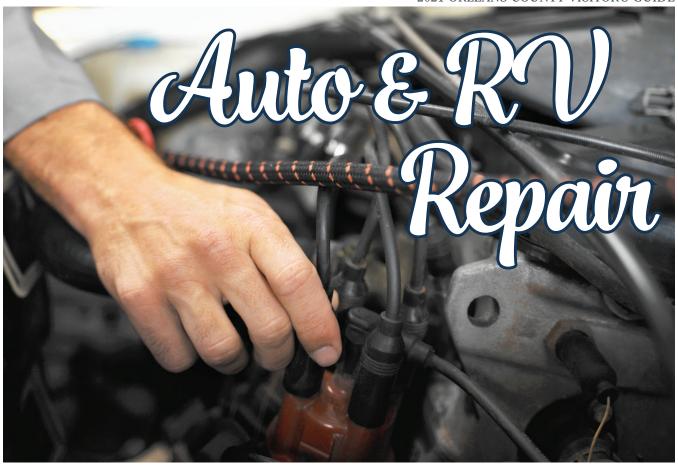
"Into the Void" was a popular installation at PLAY/GROUND, with many people posting images of the space on social media. William Quintana and Christa Trautman made a set of six telescoping, brightly colored boxes to replace the traditional four walls. "The bright hues are meant to entice users to explore the space further and immerse themselves in the unknown well of color."



There are art shows throughout the year in the county at galleries in Albion and Medina, and the GCC campus centers.

The local landscape has added large-scale public murals, including this one of Santa Claus in sleigh, flying over downtown Albion and Courthouse Square. The 24-foot-long mural was installed in June 2018 and was created by Albion native Stacey Kirby Steward. The mural honors Albion's history as home to the Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School from 1937 to 1966. The Santa School continues in his name in Midland, Michigan.





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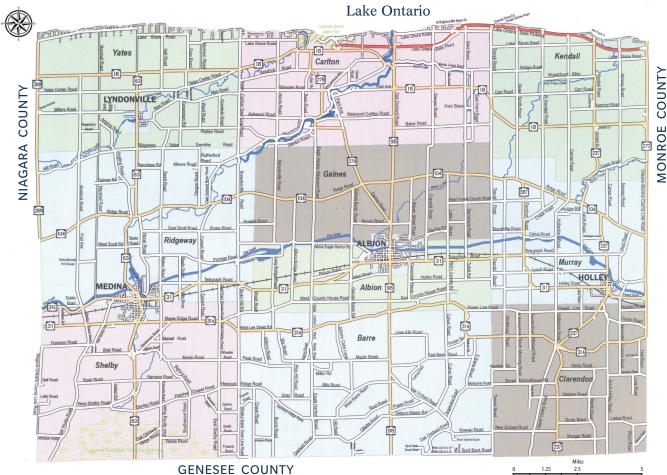
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